

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 8 and 10 through 16 are currently pending in the application.

This amendment is in response to the Final Office Action of February 23, 2005.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

Claims 1 through 8 and 10 through 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Applicants have amended the claimed invention as suggested by the Examiner for the presently claimed invention to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention to comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore, presently amended claims 1 through 8 and 10 through 16 are allowable under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patents 6,616,880 and 6,287,503

Claims 1 through 8 and 9 through 16 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 16 of U.S. Patent 6,616,880 and claims 1 through 17 of U.S. Patent 6,287,503. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing terminal disclaimers to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimers should not be construed as acquiescence in the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached are the terminal disclaimers and accompanying fee.

Applicants submit that claims 1 through 8 and 10 through 16 are clearly allowable.

Applicants request the allowance of claims 1 through 8 and 10 through 16 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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